



February 2018

Monthly Newsletter

Issue no. 604

President - Stephen Schmidt Vice President - Don Ashley Secretary - Pat Koppel Treasurer - Dick Jackson

The President's Dispatch

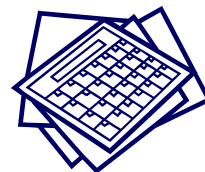
Turnout for our January meeting was good considering the weather (cold). I talked about the Holston Stamp Bucks program and it was decided that we would try the program and see how well it works. We also decided that members would receive either \$1.00 or \$2.00 in Holston Stamp Bucks for their participation in the club and its events.

I also came up with the idea of the club providing pre-printed labels and a block out stamp for members to use on their past issues of stamp publications which they can then distribute to doctors offices, dentists offices, etc. in an attempt to attract new people to the hobby and the Holston Stamp Club. I will print out the labels and have them available at the February meeting.

It is also time to start thinking about the Holston Stamp Club's annual show on Mother's Day weekend in May. If you are willing to do an exhibit for the show, please let us know so that we can plan for the right number of frames at the show. Last year we had one frame made up of *one pagers* (8 pages). If members can provide one pagers again, please let a club officer know. We can have either one or two frames available for one pagers, depending on the number willing to participate.

I have added several hundred new stamps to the 5¢ stock books and we also will have several boxes of new covers for you to browse through. The covers will be priced at 15¢ each for single stamp covers, 25¢ each for multiple stamp covers and \$1.00 each for covers with a souvenir sheet. There will be some

Club Calendar



*Guests and Visitors
always Welcome!*

February 15th - 7 p.m.
Monthly Meeting at
Northeast State Community College
Student Services Building Cafeteria

books for sale soon. See next page for information on covers and books by Dan Hubbard. We will also have more 2¢ country collections in the special auction.

Hope to see you at our next meeting on Feb. 15th.

Bonus Buck Schedule

Attend a meeting	\$1.00
Bring a new guest to a meeting	\$1.00
Sign up a new member	\$2.00
Present a program of 5 min. or less	\$1.00
Present a program over 5 min.	\$2.00
Submit an article to newsletter authored by member	\$2.00
Submit an anecdote, puzzle or article from another publication	\$1.00
Making a donation of stamps to the club for 5¢ books or club auction (minimum 100 different stamps and/or \$25.00 Scott catalog value	
Work for or at the annual HSC stamp show	\$1.00

Steve

More about Bonus Bucks by Steve

The club bonus bucks can be used to purchase Holston Stamp Club merchandise - stamps and supplies in club stock or they can be used to pay for Holston Stamp Club items being sold at meeting special auctions. All transactions will be rounded to the nearest half dollar.

Club Buying Program Update by Dan Hubbard

Two auction lots were purchased for the club recently and are being broken down for resale. Among the highlights are hundreds of foreign first flight covers from 1950s and 1960s, helicopter/balloon/rocket covers plus United States and foreign local post covers. There are first day covers and special event covers from numerous countries. Some items will be sold at auction at prices from \$0.25 to \$1.00, with better items reserved at 20% of cover value.

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

Feb. APS Circuit Book topic - India and India States

Feb. Topic by David Mielke: "What are Errors, What are Not"

Mar. APS Circuit Book topic - Malaysia, Singapore, Far East

Mar. Topic by Dan Hubbard: "Malaysia and States"

Apr. APS Circuit Book topic - USA Revenues

Apr. Topic by Bob Smith: "What the Heck is This?"

May APS Circuit Book topic - Southern Africa Nations

May Topic by Paul Benson: southern Africa subjects



Monthly Treasury Report

Beginning Balance Jan. 1, 2018	\$3,518.04
Beginning Cash on Hand	\$3,593.74
checking account balance	\$3,333.37
cash box	\$316.59
issued checks not cleared	\$15.92
APS Circuit Sales owned	\$40.30
Total Income	\$36.10
HSC Auction sales Nov.	\$30.10
Other Sales	\$6.00
2018 Membership Dues	\$0.00
Total Disbursements	(\$437.78)
Stamp Acquisition-Dutch Country	(\$370.30)
Club newsletter expenses	(\$58.08)
APS Circuit Expenses	(\$9.40)
Ending Balance Feb. 1, 2018	\$3,192.06
Ending Cash on hand Feb. 1, 2018	\$3,187.70
checking account balance	\$2,839.20
cash box	\$496.78
issued checks not cleared	(\$58.08)
APS Circuit Sales owed	(\$90.20)
Adjustment	(\$4.36)
<i>FYI. Altogether sixty-four lots were sold during Jan. special auction totaling \$335.65.</i>	

New Philatelic Books by Dan Hubbard

A literature lot on U.S. stamps was purchased recently by the club buying committee. The following six books lot may be of special interest to club members.

U.S. Postage Stamps of the 19th Century,

(Brookman), a 3 volume set with dust jackets, \$60.00

U.S. Postage Stamps 1902 - 1935,

(Johl), with dust jacket, \$20.00

Essays for U.S. Adhesive Postage Stamps,

(Brazer), with dust jacket, \$20.00

The 3 Cent Stamp of the U.S. 1851-1857 Issue,

(Chase), with dust jacket, \$20.00

U.S. Coil Issues 1906-1938,

(Armstrong), \$15.00

Washington-Franklins 1908-1921,

(Armstrong), second edition, \$15.00

These books will be at the February meeting. If more than one member is interested in a specific book, it will be sold by lottery. The other books from this lot will be priced from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per book.



Unless otherwise indicated by announcement in the newsletter, Holston Stamp Club conducts its regular meeting on the 3rd Thursday each month at 7 p.m.

Hope to C. U. there

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OUR INTERNET WEBSITE
www.sefsc.org/holston-stamp-club.html

The Cullinan Stone Story by your newsletter editor

This is not a story about Harry Potter and his friends, the first book in that series was about the “Sorcerer's Stone ” or if you read the same book published in Great Britain it was about the “Philosopher's Stone ”. This story is about a real stone that was first called the Cullinan Stone but only for a short time. It quickly became known as the Cullinan Diamond.

First some political background. The South African War in southern Africa, also known as the Second Anglo-Boer War, started in 1899 between Afrikaner states, South African Republic and Orange Free State, and neighboring British colonies. After a very bitter period of guerrilla warfare a peace treaty was signed in Pretoria in 1902 that ended hostilities but not Afrikaner nationalism. The former Afrikaner states became the self-governing British colonies, Transvaal and Orange River Colony. Starting in 1902 difficult negotiations occurred over seven years on reconciling differences between the two new colonies, Cape Colony and Natal Colony over combining into a single union like had been done in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In 1909 agreement was reached on a constitution and the South Africa Act was adopted by the British Parliament. In 1910 these four colonies combined to become the Union of South Africa, a dominion within the British Empire. The other British colonies in southern Africa (Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate, Swaziland and Rhodesia) were invited but wary of Afrikaner nationalism decided to wait and see about joining the Union of South Africa. Eventually each of them went their own way to become separate independent nations. The period of 1902 to 1910 became known in South African history as the “pre-Union period ”.

Now about the stone. It was during the pre-Union period, January 26, 1905 to be exact, that Frederick Wells, a mine superintendent at the Premier Mine, a diamond mine in Transvaal Colony, spotted a stone and extracted it using his pocket knife. It was a blue white stone that weighed out at 3,106 carats and became recognized as the largest gem-quality rough diamond ever discovered. It was initially displayed inside a bank in Johannesburg and it was given a name, the Cullinan Diamond, after Thomas Cullinan who opened the mine three years earlier and was at that time owner of Premier Mining Co. In April the stone was sent to London to the sales agent for the Premier Mining Co. to be sold. It was reported the stone would go to London via a steamship with detectives guarding it. But that report was a diversion with a fake stone. The actual stone was sent to London in a plain box via registered mail. It stayed in London unsold for two

years. As mentioned above the negotiations on forming the union were tough. In 1907 per a goodwill gesture suggested by a member of the Cape Colony Legislature, Louis Botha, Prime Minister of the Transvaal Colony, proposed to his colony's Volksraad that the Transvaal Colony government purchase the stone and gift it to the British Empire monarch, King Edward VII. The Volksraad voted in favor as this step might help gain favor for some of their demands in the negotiations. The stone was purchased from the Premier Mining Co. and presented to the king as a “ token of the loyalty and attachment of the people of Transvaal to his majesty's throne and person ”. The British Prime Minister advised the king not to accept this gift from a former bitter enemy that the British were still trying to establish firm rule over but then left it up to the king to decide. King Edward, who became king in 1901 toward the end of the war, with urging from Winston Churchill, then the Colonial Under-Secretary who fought against the Afrikaners was briefly a prisoner of war under them yet fervently believed in offering the hand of friendship to the vanquished, decided to accept the Cullinan Stone on his 66th birthday, Nov. 9, 1907.



Now about the diamonds. King Edward was delighted over the stone and had the Colonial Secretary (Winston Churchill's boss) make an announcement that this unique diamond would be kept and preserved among the historical jewels that made up the heirlooms of the Crown. King Edward selected Joseph Asscher & Co. of Amsterdam to cleave and polish the rough stone into brilliant gems. In January 1908 word was passed around that the stone would make its way to Amsterdam aboard a Royal Navy ship. This again was a diversion because Joseph Asscher visited London in January put the stone in his jacket pocket and then took a train and a ferry to Amsterdam. After studying the stone for a month in his diamond cutting factory Joseph Asscher successfully cleaved the stone into two pieces. Over the next few months the two pieces were cut further into a total of nine major pieces and numerous smaller ones. After they were polished the nine large diamonds were named Cullinans I through IX. Cullinans I and II were formally presented to King Edward in November 1908. Cullinan I, a pear shaped blue-white gem weighing 530.2 carats with 74 facets was given the name *The Great Star of Africa*. It was then and still is the largest clear cut diamond in the world. Cullinan II, a cushion cut gem weighing 317.4 carats with 66 facets is known as the *Second Star of Africa*. Stamps depicting these two diamonds were issued by the Republic of South Africa in 1980, Scott 534 (Cullinan II) and Scott 535 (Cullinan I) honoring the 20th meeting of the World Diamond Congress which was held in Johannesburg in 1980.



King Edward died in 1910 and was followed by King George V. King George carried through King Edward's intentions by adding the two diamonds to the empire's Crown Jewels. The Royal Sceptre, an ornamental rod used during coronation ceremonies, was redesigned and Cullinan I became its centerpiece. Cullinan II was added to the front of the Imperial State Crown. The monarch wears this crown annually when presiding over the Opening of Parliament. In 2011 Great Britain issued a stamp series on the Crown Jewels. Scott 2931 shows The Royal Sceptre and Scott 2938 the Imperial State Crown. The Scott 2938 doesn't show Cullinan II, so, in-between the stamps is a dual picture of the two. They can



be viewed daily inside the Tower of London. By the way, the Cullinans III through IX diamonds and the 96 smaller diamonds, "the cleavings", were given to Joseph Asscher as payment for his services. King Edward purchased Cullinan VI. Then in 1910 the newly formed Union of South Africa purchased the remainder and its High Commissioner presented them to King George and Queen Mary later that year.